

Negro Physicians
(Curry - Wm B)
Perry - Wm B)

7

April 30, 1937

Dear Dr. Perry: I have been home long enough to turn over in my mind further considerations of your future in public health and the advisability of your accepting my recommendation to go to Alabama.

It is very likely that the Julius Rosenwald Fund will play an important part in the establishment of health centers in northern communities. This means that I will be pretty closely in touch with these developments. This does not mean that if you fail to go to Tuskegee I would be opposed to your incorporation in these programs as they develop in the North. It does mean, however, that I know nothing will be done until very late in this year following the winter meeting of our trustees. I have every reason to feel that at that time some positive action will be taken.

In the meantime, we have already had approved a plan for developing Tuskegee. The more I think of it, the more I am convinced that you will make a mistake if you fail to accept an appointment there following the close of your work at Harvard. I believe that you are a type who can do some research. I think of you particularly in connection with the work in venereal disease. I have already recommended that you get as close as possible to Dr. Nelson in Boston. If you go to Tuskegee, I see every reason why you should become an authority in venereal disease in a short while.

There are approximately 22,000 Negroes in Macon County. More than five years ago the Julius Rosenwald Fund, in cooperation with the United States Public Health Service, and under the immediate direction of the now Surgeon General Parran, made a Wasserman study of the entire Negro population in this county. The interest of the United States Public Health

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Service continues. Just recently, Reprint No. 59 from Venereal Disease Information reports an article by Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr and Dr. Taliaferro Clark read before the American Medical Association in Kansas City last year entitled "Untreated Syphilis in the Male Negro." This work was done in Macon County. It is important that a well-trained person be placed in charge of such a program. The Milbank Memorial Fund has made an appropriation for 1937 to continue autopsies at the rate of \$50.00 each to further this type of study. You will have a chance to do an outstanding piece of work.

If you have ambitions in the public health field, there will be no greater stepping stone to success than through such a medium as we can offer here. A short time at Tuskegee will permit you to assume a commanding position in this field. I need not say that I will be interested in doing anything possible to advance your work. I do not want to see you flounder around after the close of your work in June.

Very truly yours,

M. O. BOUSFIELD

M. O. Bousfield, M. D.

MOB:rh

Dr. William B. Perry
Harvard School of Public Health
55 Shattuck Street
New Haven, Connecticut

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